

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02

EB-08 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 /104 W

-----125057 290001Z /63

R 281216Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5013

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV MASS ET SO

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA REACTS TO US DECISION SELL ARMS TO SOMALIA

1. SUMMARY: U. S. DECISION TO SELL ARMS TO SOMALIA MADE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES IN ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF JULY 28. ARTICLE REFLECTS ETHIOPIAN BELIEF THAT U.S. DECISION "CULMINATION OF ORCESTRATED CONSPIRACY" TO "TRANSFORM RED SEA INTO EXCLUSIVE DOMAIN OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES." SECOND ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED DECISION AND NAMED FRANCE AND SAUDI ARABIA AS ADDITIONAL ARMS SUPPLIERS. THIS ARTICLE NOTED "PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT PRESIDENT CARTER AND COMMITMENT HIS ADMINISTRATION WHICH ANGRILY REACTED TO REVOLUTIONARY COURSE ETHIOPIA CURRENTLY PURSUING." BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARTICLES WERE ATTRIBUTED TO ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY.
END SUMMARY.

1. JULY 28 ETHIOPIAN HERALD CARRIED FOLLOWING FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED: "US DECISION TO ARM SOMALIA: CULMINATION OF ORCHESTRATED CONSPIRACY*"

QUOTE DECISION BY UNITED STATES TO ARM SOMALIA UNDERSCORES AMERICA'S DEEP INVOLVEMENT IN REACTIONARY CONSPIRACY TO SUBVERT PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS IN REGION AND TO HELP TRANSFORM RED SEA INTO EXCLUSIVE DOMAIN OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES.

QUOTE IT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED BY STATE DEPARTMENT TUESDAY NIGHT THAT UNITED STATES HAS AGREED TO ARM SOMALIA. REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON SAID THAT AT ABOUT SAME TIME PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA CLOSED DOWN AMERICAN IMPERIALIST ESTABLISHMENTS, SOMALIA BEGAN PUTTING OUT FEELERS TO AMERICAN ALLIES, NOTABLY SAUDI ARABIA, INDICATING IT MIGHT BE READY TO SWITCH ALLEGIANCE.

QUOTE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID UNITED STATES WOULD ACT, ALONG WITH OTHER UNNAMED COUNTRIES, TO PROVIDE WEAPONS TO SOMALIA.

QUOTE SINCE AMERICAN MILITARY AND PROPAGANDA ESTABLISHMENTS WERE CLOSED DOWN IN ETHIOPIA, HIGH-LEVEL SOMALIA GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN HOLDING SECRET TALKS WITH VARIOUS REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES. AFTER VISIT TO UNITED STATES BY CROWN PRINCE OF SAUDI ARABIA, SOMALIA RULER SIAD BARRE WENT TO JEDDAH FOR TALKS WITH CROWN PRINCE. SIAD BARRE INDICATED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERVIEW ON JUNE 17 THAT HE HIGH ABANDON HIS SO-CALLED SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM AND SWITCH ALLEGIANCE TO UNITED STATES.

QUOTE IT WIDELY REPORTED IN WESTERN PRESS THAT SAUDI CROWN PRINCE VISITED WASHINGTON ON BEHALF SIAD BARRE AND ARRANGED FOR ARMS DEAL. A CONDITION FOR ARMS DEAL, AS REPORTED IN WESTERN MASS MEDIA, WAS SOMALI GOVERNMENT SHOULD FOLLOW EGYPTIAN AND SUDANESE LINE AND EXPEL SOVIET EXPERTS. IN RETURN FOR EXPULSION, SAUDI ARABIA WILL PROVIDE SOMALIA WITH 300 MILLION AMERICAN DOLLARS WORTH OF AID EVERY YEAR.

QUOTE AMERICAN DECISION TO ARM SOMALIA IS THEREFORE CLIMAX OF THREE-MONTH LONG BACK DOOR DEALINGS BY SIAD BARRE'S GOVERNMENT. CURRENT VISIT TO FRANCE BY SOMALI DELEGATION IS SEEN BY OBSERVERS HERE AS A CLUE TO ONE OF UNNAMED COUNTRIES.

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QUOTE IT HAS BECOME CLEAR FROM STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT AND INTERPRETIVE REPORT ON IT THAT SOMALIA HAD APPROACHED UNITED STATES ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES SOME MONTHS AGO IN EFFORT TO GET AMERICAN ARMS. WHILE THESE SECRET PARLEYS WERE GOING ON, SOMALIA LEADERS HAVE BEEN GOING TO SOVIET UNION TO DENY THESE PARLEYS.

QUOTE IT NOW COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT REACTIONARY SIAD BARRE REGIME HAS BEEN ON ONE HAND TALKING SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM TO CHEAT PROGRESSIVE SOMALI PEOPLE AND ON OTHER HAND WORKING HAND AND GLOVE WITH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. REGULAR ARMED FORCES OF SOMALIA WHO HAVE BEEN COMMITTING AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA HAVE BEEN

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USING MODERN AMERICAN ARMS AND SUCH ARMS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY ETHIOPIAN TROOPS DURING THE WEEKEND. OBSERVERS HERE WONDER WHETHER AMERICAN ARMS DELIVERY TO

SOMALIA HAD SURREPTITIOUSLY STARTED LONG BEFORE WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT. UNQUOTE.

3. SECOND ARTICLE IN SAME ISSUE, HEADLINED "CARTER ADMINISTRATION DECIDES TO ARM SOMALIA" AND DATED WASHINGTON, NOTED:

QUOTE U.S. HAS DECIDED TO ARM SOMALIA, STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED HERE. STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID U.S. WOULD PROVIDE WEAPONS TO SOMALIA IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. OTHER COUNTRIES ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE SAUDI ARABIA AND FRANCE, SAUDI ARABIA HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO PROVIDE MOGADISHO 300 MILLION DOLLARS FOR PURCHASE OF ARMS FROM U.S.

QUOTE SOMALIA APPROACHED UNITED STATES SOME MONTHS AGO IN EFFORT TO DIVERSIFY ARSENALS AND WITH VIEW TO INTENSIFYING ITS MILITARY BUILD-UP. UNITED STATES HAS FORMALLY CONSENTED TO SOMALIA'S REQUESTS IN THIS REGARD.

QUOTE U.S. DECISION TO ARM SOMALIA REFLECTS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND COMMITMENT HIS ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAD REPORTEDLY ANGRILY REACTED TO REVOLUTIONARY COURSE ETHIOPIA PRESENTLY PURSUING, NEWS AGENCIES NOTED.

QUOTE POLITICAL ANALYSTS OBSERVE THAT UNITED STATES HAS BEEN MANIFESTING VERY UNUSUAL INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE IN HORN OF AFRICA AND SOMALIA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROLE THERE.

QUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ADMITTED TO NEWS CORRESPONDENTS THAT U.S. HAD CONSULTED WITH "SOME OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES" ABOUT SOMALIA'S REQUESTS FOR ARMS. ACCORDING TO POLITICAL ANALYSTS, THIS REFERS TO FLURRY OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES WHICH HAD BEEN GOING ON TO ARM SOMALIA TO THE TEETH AND TRANSFORM RED SEA INTO SO-CALLED ARAB LAKE.

QUOTE ANALYSTS FURTHER NOTE SAUDI ARABIA, CLIENT STATE OF U.S. IMPERIALISM, HAS TAKEN ACTIVE AND LEADING PART IN TASK SPEEDY MILITARIZATION OF MOGADISHO REGIME AND TRANSFORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY IN QUESTION INTO A CLOSED "ARAB LAKE." UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: SINCE ETHIOPIA HAS ACCUSED U.S. OF SUPPLYING ARMS TO SOMALIA FOR PAST WEEK, THIS CURRENT

ANNOUNCEMENT AND DENUNCIATION MAY HAVE LOST SOME OF
ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT. ETHIOPIANS NOW REDUCED, IN
EFFECT, TO SAYING, "I TOLD YOU SO." IN THIS INSTANCE
IT SEEMS THAT ETHIOPIANS PREEMPTED THEIR OWN PROPAGANDA
EFFORTS.
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